DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 284 924 UD 025 654

AUTHOR Howell, John F.

TITLE Results of the Drug and Alcohol Use Survey, Grade 6 and 9, 1986-87.

INSTITUTION Springfield Public Schools, Mass.

PUB DATE May 87
NOTE 11p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Tests/Evaluation Instruments (160)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Age Differences; Attendance; *Drinking; *Drug Use; Elementary Secondary Education; *Individual Characteristics; Peer Influence; Racial Differences; Self Concept; *Smoking; Stimulants; *Urban Schools
IDENTIFIERS Drug and Alcohol Survey; *Springfield Public Schools MA

ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of a 1986-87 survey of frequencies and percentages of drug use among sixth and ninth graders in the Springfield (Massachusetts) Public Schools. Among the findings elicited through a student questionnaire were the following: (1) The users of drug and alcohol were more frequently male than female. (2) There did not seem to be many differences across racial or ethnic populations. (3) Drug users tended to see themselves less as good students and more as poor students than those who use alcohol. (4) Drug users were absent about five times as much as other students. (5) Drug users were slightly more likely to live with one parent than non-users. (6) Drug users reported starting to drink much earlier than the grade nine alcohol users. (7) Drug users were three to four times more likely to drink daily or even weekly. (8) There were very few drug users at the grade six level. (9) More than three-quarters of the drug users used their drugs with friends. (10) Only 41 percent of drug users reportedly wanted to stop using drugs. (11) Students involved with drugs were generally the ones who were more likely to have seen drugs being used. And (12) most smokers of tobacco were drug users too. The survey instrument is appended. (PS)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

7-8-87

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Springfield, Massachusetts
Research Department Report

ED284924

Results of the Drug and Alcohol Use Survey, Grade 6 and 9, 1986-87

The results of the survey in frequencies and percentages are appended as Profiles on Drug and Alcohol Use. The profiles show that the users of drug and alcohol were more male than females; drug users were 57% male and alcohol users were 53% male. There did not seem to be many differences across racial or ethnic populations, however, there was a higher proportion of Hispanic Grade 6 non-users than Hispanics in other categories.

Drug users tended to see themselves less as good students and more as poor students than those who use alcohol. Those who use alcohol tended to see themselves less as good students and more as poor students than those who were non-users. If this perception could be considered self-image, then users tended to have lower self-image than non-users.

Drug users tended to be absent proportionally five times as much as other students, and it was the drug user that was five times more likely to have been absent from school because of skipping. Furthermore drug and alcohol users were less likely to report being absent due to sickness (46%) than those who were non-users (67%).

Drug and alcohol users tended to be slightly more likely to live with one parent than non-users. However, 6th grade non-users were more likely to live with both parents than 9th grade non-users.

Drug users reported starting to drink much earlier than the Grade 9 alcohol users with 70% beginning to drink by Grade 7 compared to only 48% of the alcohol users. Grade 6 alcohol users were almost 10 times more likely to report drinking alcohol with their meals than those in Grade 9; most Grade 9 drinkers reported drinking in the evenings and on weekends. This is not to say that Grade 9 drinkers do not drink at home during meals or celebrations. Those who drank alcohol were 2 or 3 times more likely to drink wine than drug users.

Both drug users and alcohol users reported drinking beer at the same proportion (25%). Grade 6 drinkers were more users of wine than beer. Grade 6 drinkers also reported using "other" (18%) which is at this point is undefined. Drug users reported considerably more drinking of multiple substances than non-drug users. By implication, multiple substance use was considered more serious than the use of beverage alone.

UD025-657

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
G. F. Howell
Springfield P.S.
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

Drug users were 3 to 4 times more likely to drink daily or even weekly, while 62% of the Grade 9 and 73% of the Grade 6 alcohol users reported not drinking very often. Thus, if not-drinking-very-often is considered experimentation, then many alcohol drinkers were experimenting, whereas only 1/3 of the drug users were. Most drug users were drinking more frequently than not-very-often (67%).

Grade 9 users were more likely to get alcohol from a friend than were users in Grade 6. In fact no alcohol users in Grade 6 reported obtaining alcohol from a friend. The majority of alcohol users in Grade 6 (62%) reported getting alcohol from a source other than from a friend or from home. It requires further investigation to determine that source, but it is suspected that it may be a family supported institution.

The majority of Grade 9 students reported drinking with friends, whereas 82% of the alcohol users in Grade 6 drank with families, supposedly during meals or family celebrations. Is this Grade 6 use the entry level of alcohol use that becomes a social event later on? Grade 9 drinkers reported drinking to have fun (34%) while 53% of 6th grade drinkers drank at meals. Over a 1/3 of 9th graders reported drinking at parties compared to 22% of 6th grade drinkers. However most 6th graders reported drinking at home (55%), and it is not clear whether their drinking at parties were social parties or family parties; probably the latter.

There where very few drug users at the Grade 6 level. Only 21 of the 276 self-reported drug users were in Grade 6. The results of drug use below should be considered as from the 255 Grade 9 students which represented 16.8% of the 1517 respondents. By far the majority of drug users used marijuana (58%) or a multiple of substances (23%). Most drug users began using drugs by Grade 7 (57%). Most drug users began using drugs by Grade 7 (57%). Most drug use was on the weekends (62%) and only 47% of it can be considered experimentation. Not only was most drug use not experimentation, but also 10% of those who reported using drugs reported using them daily. Fortunately, less than 1 in 5 Grade 9 students reported using drugs at all.

Over 3/4 of the users used their drugs with friends; drug use is a very social thing, and the reasons for drug use were varied and were fairly evenly distributed between getting high, having fun, and a multiple of reasons. Interestingly, only 41% of the drug users reportedly wanted to stop using drugs.

Most respondents reported being aware of the Student Assistance Program (SAP). Grade 6 Students, in particular, were much more likely to report being aware of

the program than Grade 9 students. However, very few people reported using the SAP, although 2/3 of the Grade 6 alcohol users reported using the service. Only 10% of the drug users reported using the service, although many reported finding the information the service provided helpful, perhaps through classroom materials.

Generally, students who were involved with drugs were the ones who were more likely to have seen drugs being used. Grade 9 students were considerably more aware of seeing drugs being used in school than 6th graders. The number reported seeing drugs being sold in school was smaller with only 4% of all 6th graders seeing drugs being sold. Not surprisingly, the numbers increased for seeing neighborhood sales with almost 83% of the drug users seeing drugs being sold in their neighborhood. However, half of the alcohol users have seen drugs sold in their neighborhood, and over a 1/3 of the non-users reported having seen drugs being sold in their neighborhood. Clearly drug selling was not as undercover as perhaps some people would like to believe. While drug users knew where to buy drugs, between 1/3 and 1/2 of the other Grade 9 students also knew where to buy drugs and a 1/3 of the 6 graders who reported using alcohol also knew where to buy drugs.

Surprisingly, most smokers of tobacco were mostly drug users too. Of those who reported using drugs, 54% reported smoking. Few alcohol users (12%), especially in Grade 9, reported smoking and 2% of 6th graders, whether they used alcohol or not, reported smoking tobacco. These percentages were lower than expected.

The data from this survey is contained on a computer file and is available for further investigation. Any questions, especially questions of relationship, that might be of interest to you are invited for further analysis. Please submit them to the Research Department. The survey instrument is appended for examination.

DR. JOHN F. HOWELL
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
Springfield Public Schools
195 STATE STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01103

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Springfield, Massachusetts

Profiles of Drug and Alcohol Use, Grades 6 and 9 for 1986-87

Variable	Both(%)	AL-Gr6(%)	AL-Gr9(%)	No-Gr6(%)	No-Gr9(%)
Grade:					
6	21	273	0	1027	0
9	255	0	381	0	881
Sex:					
Male	157(57%)	150(55%)	192(50%)	505(49%)	392(44%)
Female	115(42%)	123(45%)	180(47%)	508(49%)	489(56%)
NR	4(1%)	0	9(3%)	14(2%)	0
Race:					
White	118(43%)	126(46%)	174(46%)	360(35%)	346(39%)
Black	90(33%)	84(31%)	108(28%)	218(21%)	274(31%)
Hispanic	55(19%)	54(20%)	74(20%)	385(37%)	205(23%)
Asian	6(2%)	0	0	4(1%)	18(2%)
Other	5(2%)	9(3%)	15(4%)	58(6%)	24(3%)
NR	2(1%)	0	6(2%)	0	14(2%)
Student:					
Good	58(21%)	105(38%)	114(30%)	436(42%)	394(45%)
Average	195(71%)	156(58%)	252(65%)	572(56%)	467(53%)
Poor	20(7%)	6(2%)	9(3%)	14(1%)	9(1%)
NR	3(1%)	6(2%)	6(2%)	5(1%)	11(1%)
Absent:					
None	60(22%)	111(41%)	165(43%)	412(40%)	329(37%)
1-3	135(49%)	117(43%)	141(37%)	472(46%)	392(45%)
5-10	29(10%)	39(14%)	54(14%)	91(9%)	94(11%)
10+	50(18%)	3(1%)	15(4%)	35(3%)	37(4%)
NR	2(1%)	3(1%)	6(2%)	17(2%)	29(3%)
Reason:					
Sick	115(42%)	135(49%)	177(46%)	785(76%)	507(58%)
Suspend	13(5%)	3(1%)	15(4%)	14(2%)	20(2%)
Skip	55(19%)	0	21(5%)	0	31(4%)
Alcohol	5(2%)	0	0	0	0
Drug	4(1%)	0	0	0	0
Other	22(8%)	45(17%)	57(15%)	124(12%)	121(14%)
Mult.	32(12%)	15(5%)	9(3%)	0	0
NR	30(11%)	75(28%)	102(27)	104(10%)	202(22%)
Live With:					
Both	124(45%)	132(48%)	186(49%)	622(61%)	452(51%)
One	128(46%)	111(41%)	168(44%)	352(34%)	372(42%)
Other	21(8%)	18(7%)	21(5%)	18(2%)	25(3%)
NR	2(1%)	12(4%)	6(2%)	35(3%)	32(4%)
Drink:					
Yes	238(86%)	273	381	0	0
No	9(3%)	0	0	1027	881
NR	16(11%)	0	0	0	0

Variable	Both(%)	AL-Gr6(%)	AL-Gr9(%)	No-Gr6(%)	No-Gr9(%)
Grade:					
1	14(5%)	27(10%)	0		
2	5(2%)	9(3%)	0		
3	7(3%)	27(10%)	12(3%)		
4	11(4%)	42(16%)	9(3%)		
5	30(11%)	90(33%)	21(5%)		
6	40(14%)	63(23%)	36(9%)		
7	86(31%)	0	108(28%)		
8	48(17%)	0	87(23%)		
9	21(8%)	0	90(24%)		
NR	14(5%)	15(5%)	18(5%)		
When:					
Mealtime	6(2%)	60(22%)	9(3%)		
Weekend	156(57%)	66(24%)	264(69%)		
Before Sch.	2(1%)	9(3%)	3(1%)		
During Sch.	3(1%)	0	0		
After Sch.	11(4%)	15(5%)	18(5%)		
Evenings	32(12%)	57(22%)	21(5%)		
Mult.	43(15%)	12(4%)	12(3%)		
NR	23(8%)	54(20%)	54(14%)		
What:					
Beer	68(25%)	69(25%)	102(27%)		
Wine	25(9%)	87(32%)	66(17%)		
Liquor	54(20%)	12(4%)	81(21%)		
Other	17(6%)	48(18%)	57(15%)		
Mult.	99(35%)	45(17%)	60(16%)		
NR	13(5%)	12(4%)	15(4%)		
How Often:					
Not	91(33%)	195(73%)	237(62%)		
1/Mo	58(21%)	36(13%)	93(25%)		
1/Wk	88(32%)	24(9%)	21(5%)		
Daily	24(9%)	3(1%)	12(3%)		
NR	15(5%)	12(4%)	18(5%)		
Where Get:					
False ID	13(5%)	3(1%)	9(3%)		
Home	8(3%)	45(16%)	42(11%)		
Another	184(67%)	0	204(53%)		
Other	36(13%)	168(62%)	75(20%)		
Mult.	22(8%)	6(2%)	12(3%)		
NR	12(4%)	24(9%)	39(10%)		
With Whom:					
Alone	11(4%)	6(2%)	33(9%)		
Friends	206(75%)	21(8%)	204(53%)		
Family	34(12%)	225(82%)	117(31%)		
Mult.	11(4%)	3(1%)	12(3%)		
NR	14(5%)	18(7%)	15(4%)		

Variable	Both(%)	AL-Gr6(%)	AL-Gr9(%)	No-Gr6(%)	No-Gr9(%)
Why:					
Friends	14(5%)	0	24(6%)		
Parents	5(2%)	15(5%)	0		
Feel Better	17(6%)	3(1%)	9(3%)		
Relax	11(4%)	3(1%)	30(8%)		
Fun	91(33%)	36(13%)	132(35%)		
Meals	25(9%)	141(53%)	81(21%)		
Other	34(12%)	45(16%)	60(16%)		
Mult.	66(24%)	24(9%)	21(5%)		
NR	13(5%)	6(2%)	24(6%)		
Where:					
School	1	0	0		
Home	22(8%)	150(55%)	102(27%)		
Friend's	31(12%)	6(2%)	54(14%)		
Parks	11(4%)	6(2%)	0		
Parties	95(34%)	60(22%)	138(36%)		
Other	13(5%)	27(10%)	33(9%)		
Mult.	89(32%)	21(8%)	33(9%)		
NR	13(5%)	3(1%)	21(5%)		
Drugs:					
Yes	274(99%)	0	0	0	0
No	2(1%)	273	381	1027	881
What:					
MJ	159(58%)				
Pills	10(4%)				
Crack	6(2%)				
Coke	4(1%)				
Heroin	2(1%)				
Speed	9(3%)				
Mesc.	7(3%)				
Other	4(1%)				
Mult.	65(23%)				
NR	10(4%)				
What Grade:					
1	10(4%)				
2	1				
3	4(1%)				
4	7(3%)				
5	21(8%)				
6	32(12%)				
7	81(29%)				
8	64(23%)				
9	42(15%)				
NR	14(5%)				

Variable	Both(%)	AL-Gr6(%)	AL-Gr9(%)	No-Gr6(%)	No-Gr9(%)
When:					
Before Sch.	9(3%)				
During Sch.	7(3%)				
After Sch.	12(4%)				
Evenings	10(4%)				
Weekends	171(62%)				
Mult.	51(18%)				
NR	16(6%)				
How Often:					
Not	129(47%)				
1/Mo.	48(17%)				
1/Wk.	58(21%)				
Daily	26(10%)				
NR	15(5%)				
With Whom:					
Alone	22(9%)				
Friends	210(76%)				
Family	20(7%)				
Mult.	12(4%)				
NR	12(4%)				
Why:					
Friends	13(5%)				
Feel Better	25(10%)				
Get High	57(21%)				
Relax	15(5%)				
Fun	55(19%)				
Other	31(11%)				
Mult.	68(25%)				
NR	12(4%)				
Stop:					
Yes	114(41%)				
No	130(47%)				
NR	32(12%)				
Aware SAP:					
Yes	126(45%)	192(70%)	135(36%)	528(51%)	343(29%)
No	145(53%)	75(28%)	222(58%)	470(46%)	534(61%)
NR	5(2%)	6(2%)	24(6%)	29(3%)	4
Used SAP:					
Yes	28(10%)	174(64%)	6(2%)	193(19%)	31(4%)
No	246(89%)	93(34%)	354(92%)	805(78%)	848(96%)
NR	2(1%)	6(2%)	21(6%)	29(3%)	2
Info SAP:					
Yes	94(34%)	174(64%)	132(35%)	538(53%)	276(31%)
No	169(61%)	93(34%)	207(54%)	465(45%)	605(69%)
NR	13(5%)	6(2%)	42(11%)	24(2%)	0

Variable	Both(%)	AL-Gr6(%)	AL-Gr9(%)	No-Gr6(%)	No-Gr9(%)
Seen Used:					
Yes	174(63%)	27(10%)	165(43%)	47(5%)	258(34%)
No	100(36%)	240(88%)	198(52%)	958(93%)	583(66%)
NR	2(1%)	6(2%)	18(5%)	21(2%)	0
Seen Sold:					
Yes	150(54%)	12(4%)	108(28%)	34(4%)	141(16%)
No	124(45%)	258(95%)	252(66%)	968(94%)	738(84%)
NR	2(1%)	3(1%)	21(6%)	25(2%)	2
Seen Neigh:					
Yes	228(83%)	150(55%)	195(51%)	351(34%)	331(38%)
No	47(17%)	120(44%)	168(44%)	660(64%)	546(62%)
NR	1	3(1%)	18(5%)	16(2%)	4
Know Buy:					
Yes	233(84%)	84(31%)	198(52%)	119(12%)	286(33%)
No	41(15%)	183(67%)	168(44%)	887(86%)	593(67%)
NR	2(1%)	6(2%)	15(4%)	21(2%)	2
Tobacco:					
Yes	149(54%)	9(3%)	45(12%)	17(2%)	43(5%)
No	124(45%)	258(95%)	318(83%)	988(96%)	836(95%)
NR	3(1%)	6(2%)	18(5%)	22(2%)	2

Springfield Public Schools
Springfield, Massachusetts

Substance Use Survey

Answer as honestly as possible by checking the appropriate boxes.

1. Grade: [] 6. [] 9 2. Sex: [] Male. [] Female

3. Race: [] White. [] Black. [] Hispanic. [] Asian. [] Other

4. Do you consider yourself a: [] Good student. [] Average student. [] Poor student

5. Are you living with: [] Both parents (guardians). [] One parent (guardian).
[] Other_____

6. How many times have you been absent from school in the last month?
[] Not at all [] 1-3 times [] 5-10 times [] More than 10 times

7. If you were absent at all, what was the reason for which you were absent the most?
[] Sick [] Suspended [] Skipped [] Alcohol related [] Drug related
[] Other_____

8. Do you drink alcolohic beverages? [] Yes [] No

***** IF YOU ANSWERED 'NO' TO THE QUESTION 8, SKIP TO QUESTION 17 *****

9. What grade were you in the first time you drank?
[] 1 [] 2 [] 3 [] 4 [] 5 [] 6 [] 7 [] 8 [] 9

10. When do you usually drink? [] Mealtimes [] Weekends
[] Before school [] During school hours [] After school [] Evenings

11. What do you drink? [] Beer [] Wine [] Liquor [] Other

12. How often do you drink?
[] Not very often [] Once or twice a month [] Once or twice a week
[] Almost every day

13. How do you get your alcohol? [] With a false identification
[] Take it from home [] From another person [] Other _____

14. With whom do you drink? [] Mostly alone [] Mostly with friends
[] Mostly with family

15. Why do you drink ? [] My friends drink [] My parents drink [] To feel better
[] For relaxation [] For fun at pa[illegible] [] For meals or celebrations at home
[] Other _____ _____

16. Where do you mostly drink? [] Around school [] At home
[] At a friend's house [] In parks [] At parties [] Other _____

17. Do you use illegal (not medicine) drugs other than alcohol? [] Yes [] No

***** IF YOU ANSWEWRED 'NO' TO THE QUESTION 17. SKIP TO QUESTION 25 *****

18. What drugs do you use? [] Marijuana [] Pills [] Crack [] Cocaine
[] Heroin [] Speed [] Mescaline [] Other _____

19. What grade were you in the first time you used drugs?
[] 1 [] 2 [] 3 [] 4 [] 5 [] 6 [] 7 [] 8 [] 9

20. When do you usually take drugs?
[] Before school [] During school hours [] After school
[] Evenings [] Weekends

21. How often do you use drugs?
[] Not very often [] Once or twice a month [] Once or twice a week
[] Almost every day

22. With whom do you use drugs? []Mostly alone []Mostly with friends
[]Mostly with family

23. Why do you use drugs? [] My friends do [] To feel better [] To get high
[] For relaxation [] For fun at parties [] Other_____

24. Would you like to stop? [] Yes [] No

25. Are you aware of the Student Assistance Program? [] Yes [] No

26. Have you ever used the Student Assistance Program? [] Yes [] No

27. Was the classroom information presented by the Student Assistance Program helpful to you? [] Yes [] No

28. Have you seen drugs being **used** at school? [] Yes [] No

29. Have you seen drugs being **sold** at school? [] Yes [] No

30. Have you seen drugs being sold in your neighborhood? [] Yes [] No

31. Do you know where to buy drugs? [] Yes [] No

32. Do you use tobacco in any form? [] Yes [] No

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP YOU HAVE HELPED SOMEONE TODAY